

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims and amendments

After entering this amendment, claims 7, 13, 15-19, 35, 157-159, and 161-163 will be pending in this application. Claim 160 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 161 has been amended to delete its dependency from cancelled claim 160, and to depend only from claim 13. No other claim has been amended in this Supplemental Amendment.

II. Allowable subject matter

The Office objected to claims 7, 13, 15-19, 35, 157-159, and 162 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action at 6. In the response filed November 6, 2007, Applicants amended claims 7, 13, and 157 to place them in independent form, incorporating all of the limitations of the claims from which they depended.

The Office also indicated that the subject matter of claim 160 was not taught by the prior art. Office Action at 7. However, the Office objected to claim 160 for reciting a limitation without antecedent basis. In the response filed November 6, 2007, Applicants amended claim 160 addressing the Office's objection.

However, in the Advisory Action dated November 15, 2007, the Office indicated that claim 160 recited subject matter that raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Advisory Action at 2. No other objection or rejection of the pending claims was raised in the Advisory Action.

Applicants are now canceling claim 160 in the instant Supplemental Amendment. Thus, Applicants believe that all of the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

III. Conclusions

Applicants respectfully request that this Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Office, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance. The proposed amendments of claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Moreover, this Response and Amendment adopts the Office's express suggestions for placing the claims in condition for allowance. Therefore, this Response and Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Office.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed amendment, reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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Dated: December 6, 2007